

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1, 3, 6, 8-18, 22, and 23 are pending.

Claims 2, 4, 5, 7, and 19-21 were previously canceled.

Claims 1, 22, and 23 are currently amended.

1. **(Currently Amended)** A garment suitable to be worn on an upper body portion of a person, ~~comprising~~ consisting essentially of:

a base fabric having a front portion and a rear portion, formed with openings for arms and head of the person, ~~and the front portion~~ having a breast portion ~~on the front portion~~, and a portion that is not the breast portion;

a first protective panel attached to the breast portion of the base fabric, but not attached to the front portion that is not the breast portion of the base fabric;

a second protective panel attached to the breast portion of the base fabric, but not attached to the front portion that is not the breast portion of the base fabric;
and

a pair of sleeves attached to the base fabric for receiving the person's arms, each sleeve having an upper-arm portion and a forearm portion, and each sleeve having a third protective panel attached to an inner forearm surface of the forearm portion and not the upper-arm portion of each sleeve, wherein the third protective panel extends approximately half of a way around a perimeter of the forearm portion of each sleeve, and is positioned proximate to a wrist opening on the sleeve,

wherein the first and second protective panels are positioned in a non-overlapping configuration,

wherein the first and second protective panels are adapted to protect the upper body portion of the person during descent from a vertical surface,

wherein each of the first and second protective panels comprises a substantially rectangular panel,

wherein the first protective panel is positioned on a right side of the breast portion and proximate to a center of the garment, and the second protective panel is positioned on a left side of the breast portion and proximate to the center of the garment,

wherein each of the first, second and third protective panels are separate and distinct panels, remote from each other, and

wherein each of the first, second and third ~~the~~ protective panels are comprised of aramid fiber.

2. **(Canceled).**

3. **(Original)** The garment of claim 1, further comprising a collar portion.

4 & 5. **(Canceled).**

6. **(Previously Presented)** The garment of claim 1, further comprising at least one of pockets and loops on the front portion of the base fabric.

7. **(Canceled).**

8. **(Original)** The garment of claim 1, further comprising attachable and detachable structural members adapted to secure the bottom of the garment to a safety belt.

9. **(Previously Presented)** The garment of claim 8, wherein the attachable and detachable structural members are selected from the group consisting of loops, buttons, snaps, hooks, and loop fasteners.

10. **(Original)** The garment of claim 1, wherein the base fabric is formed into any one of a coat, jacket, shirt, and vest.

11. **(Original)** The garment of claim 1, wherein the protective panel comprises at least one ply of a fabric formed of aramid fibers.

12. **(Original)** The garment of claim 11, wherein the aramid fibers are selected from the group consisting of Kevlar® fiber, Twaron® fiber, Spectra® fiber, and Zylon® fiber.

13. **(Original)** The garment of claim 11, wherein the protective panel fabric is constructed from aramid fiber of 200 denier mesh.

14. **(Original)** The garment of claim 11, wherein the protective panel fabric is constructed from aramid fiber having a weight of 3.9 oz/yd².

15. **(Original)** The garment of claim 11, wherein the protective panel fabric is constructed from aramid fiber having a warp count of 70 yarns/inch.

16. **(Original)** The garment of claim 11, wherein the protective panel fabric is constructed from aramid fiber having a fill count of 70 yarns/inch.

17. **(Original)** The garment of claim 11, wherein the protective panel fabric is constructed from aramid fiber having a thickness from 6 to 8 mils.

18. **(Original)** The garment of claim 11, wherein the protective panel fabric is constructed from aramid fiber having a breaking strength of 385 lbf/inch.

19-21. **(Canceled)**.

22. **(Currently Amended)** A garment suitable to be worn on an upper body portion of a person, ~~comprising~~ consisting essentially of:

a base fabric having a front portion and a rear portion, formed with openings for arms and head of the person, ~~and the front portion~~ having a breast portion ~~on the front portion~~, and a portion that is not the breast portion;

a first protective panel attached to the breast portion of the base fabric, but not attached to the front portion that is not the breast portion of the base fabric; ~~and~~

a second protective panel attached to the breast portion of the base fabric, but not attached to the front portion that is not the breast portion of the base fabric;

a collar portion formed around the opening for the head;

a pair of sleeves attached to the base fabric for receiving the person's arms, each sleeve having an upper-arm portion and a forearm portion;

a third protective panel attached to an inner ~~forearm~~ surface of the forearm portion of each sleeve, and not the upper-arm portion of each sleeve, wherein the third protective panel extends approximately half of a way around a perimeter of the forearm portion of each sleeve, and is positioned proximate to a wrist opening on each sleeve;

at least one of pockets and loops attached to the front portion of the base fabric;

attachable and detachable structural members adapted to secure the bottom of the garment to a safety belt;

wherein each of the first and second protective panels comprises a substantially rectangular panel,

wherein the first protective panel is positioned on a right side of the breast portion proximate to a center of the garment and the second protective panel is positioned on a left side of the breast portion proximate to a center of the garment,

wherein each of the first, second and third protective panels are separate and distinct panels, remote from each other,

wherein each of the first, second and third ~~the~~ protective panels are comprised of aramid fiber,

wherein the first and second protective panels are positioned in a non-overlapping configuration, and

wherein the first and second protective panels are adapted to protect the upper body portion of the person during descent from a vertical surface.

23. **(Currently Amended)** A garment suitable to be worn on an upper body portion of a person, ~~comprising~~ consisting essentially of:

a base fabric having a front portion and a rear portion, formed with openings for arms and head of the person, and having a breast portion on the front portion, and a portion that is not the breast portion on the front portion;

at least one of pockets and loops attached to the front portion of the base fabric;

a first protective panel attached to the breast portion of the base fabric, but not attached to the front portion that is not the breast portion of the base fabric; and

a second protective panel attached to the breast portion of the base fabric, but not attached to the front portion that is not the breast portion of the base fabric,

wherein the first and second protective panels are positioned in a non-overlapping configuration,

wherein the first and second protective panels are adapted to protect the upper body portion of the person during descent from a vertical surface,

wherein each of the first and second protective panels comprises a substantially rectangular panel,

wherein each of the first, second and third protective panels are separate and distinct panels, remote from each other,

wherein the first protective panel is positioned on a right side of the breast portion proximate to a center of the garment and the second protective panel is positioned on a left side of the breast portion proximate to a center of the garment, and wherein each of the first, second and third ~~the~~ protective panels comprise aramid fiber.